

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing an authentication of a user of a computer in a network,  
the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) capturing biometric information of a user;
- (b) encrypting information using server public key and signing the biometric information with a client private key;
- (c) sending the encrypted and signed data to a secure server in the network;
- (d) accepting and verifying credentials associated with the signed and encrypted data from the server utilizing the public key from the central server; and
- (e) installing the credentials into the computer if the credentials are verified.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises fingerprint information.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises retinal information.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises voice information.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises

handwriting information.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the secure server comprises an authentication credential server.

7. A system for providing an authentication of a user of a computer system in a network; the system comprising:

a biometric capture device within the computer system for receiving the biometric information of the user and sending the biometric information to the central server, wherein credential; and

secure server for authenticating the biometric and credential information of a user from the computer.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information is encrypted utilizing a public key/private key pair.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises fingerprint information.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises retinal information.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises voice

2 information.

1 12. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises  
2 handwriting information.

1 13. The system of claim 7 wherein the secure server comprises an authentication  
2 credential server.

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